

Look at what OSHA has done to a small but vital industry in America—roofing. OSHA bureaucrats most of whom have never been out of a classroom can put a small roofing company out of business, if it catches a roofer smoking or chewing gum. OSHA says contractors must provide employees with AIDS exposure training and instruct employees on the hazards of such dangerous chemicals as chalk, lumber, and dishwashing detergent. OSHA even says contractors have to label tar filled roofing kettles, "hot." Can you see why OSHA is draining this industry of millions of dollars and thousands of jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are fed up. They have had enough of bureaucrats with no grasp of reality and no sympathy for the very people who make America work. Mr. Speaker, isn't it time to end Government bureaucracy as we know it.

WE MUST LEARN FROM PAST ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased when this House last week passed the very important Stokes-Boehlert amendment, which did not undo all of the environmental regulations.

There is a reason for environmental regulations. I am sending to every Member a copy of the August Discover magazine. It is about the last days of Easter Island. I totally believe that if we do not learn from history, we are condemned to repeat it. Scientists now, by taking core samples from Easter Island, have been able to document what happened there. As they pointed out, in just a few centuries they can tell that the people of Easter Island wiped out their forest, drove their plants and animals to extinction, and saw their complex society break down into chaos and cannibalism.

It is a very important lesson for all of us on Planet Earth that we do not become an Easter Island "wannabe." If we do not learn from history we are condemned to repeat it. I hope all of my colleagues will have time to look at this over the break, and that we certainly do not undo the progress we made last week by realizing how important some of these environmental gains can be.

THE MEDICARE TRUSTEES REPORT: A DOCUMENT THAT DEMOCRATS WANT TO HIDE FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, it is a mystery that the Democrats would want to hide the truth about Medicare.

They come to the floor and they are literally dripping with concern over Medicare. But they never mention this—the Medicare Trustees Report.

This is the report by the Medicare Board of Trustees. The board is charged with overseeing the financial condition of Medicare, and every year they file a report. This report is like a prospectus that a company is required by law to give to their shareholders.

Mr. Speaker, I think that every American, especially seniors, should have a copy of this report. They should call their Members of Congress at 202-224-3121.

Mr. Speaker, the American people need to learn the truth about Medicare. They need to read for themselves what the Trustees say about the financial condition of their program. They need to read for themselves what the Democrats do not want them to read.

LABOR-HHS APPROPRIATIONS BILL, COULD SEVERELY CURTAIL CITIZENS' RIGHTS

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, all Americans need to be aware that the upcoming Labor-HHS appropriations bill could severely curtail their rights to lobby their elected officials, and silence the voice of a majority of Americans.

The bill limits the amount of private money that Federal grantees may use to lobby, arguing that money is fungible. In other words, the Federal money makes it possible for grantees to use more of their own money to lobby. That argument is not enough to warrant these unprecedented restrictions of our first amendment rights.

Meanwhile, Americans have seen countless newspaper stories about tax-exempt groups paying to fly politicians around the country, for political advertising, or promoting their political agendas—and all this lobbying goes on tax free.

I will be offering an amendment that will end this skirting of the law. Any politician accepting tax-exempt dollars to promote his political agenda loses his Federal salary. That is lobbying reform with teeth.

Let us not silence voices of average Americans and their organizations, and let the high and mighty take a free ride on tax exemptions.

Since the issue is the fungibility of money, we must consider all fungible Government benefits. When we vote on the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, let us look at the whole problem.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following

committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: The Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Committee on International Relations, and the Committee on the Judiciary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

ILLINOIS LAND CONSERVATION ACT OF 1995

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on National Security and the Committee on Commerce be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 714), to establish the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. EMERSON] for the purpose of explanation.

(Mr. EMERSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 714 would establish a tall grass prairie in the former Joliet Arsenal. Also, this legislation would set aside portions of the land for a landfill, portions for economic development, and also a section 4(a) national cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. WELLER].

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. My Speaker, I would like to speak briefly about the importance of this legislation, H.R. 714, the Illinois Land Conservation Act, which has overwhelming bipartisan support from Members on both the Republican and Democrat side of the aisle. This is an innovative land reuse plan which was developed by a citizens planning commission, appointed under the direction of my predecessor, former Congressman George Sangmeister, resulted from thousands of hours of volunteer time from leaders in conservation, veterans' organizations, business and labor, educators, and many civic organizations.

Briefly, the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant, commonly referred to as the Joliet Arsenal, was declared excess Federal property in April 1993. A local citizens commission developed a plan for reuse of the site, which is encompassed in my legislation.

The plan has received broad-based support from Illinois' major media, citizens organizations, veterans'